

# THE ESTANCIA NEWS

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## FOOT OF SNOW GOVERNS VALLEY

Good Crop Assured for Coming Season, Plenty of Moisture

### FARMERS PLEASED AND HAPPY

The farmers of the Estancia Valley are wearing the smile that comes off. The snows of the holidays and early January had put the soil in good shape, the moisture being sufficiently deep to give promise of a splendid season for 1910. On Wednesday morning of the week, snow began falling, continuing all day long. By night a blanket of from ten to twelve inches covered the ground. Yesterday morning it began spitting snow again, as if more would follow. While it is somewhat disagreeable to get about, wading snow almost knee-deep, everybody is smiling and happy, as good crops are now assured, which means a good year for not only the farmers, but everybody in the valley.

Judge McFie, who is always willing to accommodate whenever possible, is of the opinion that the holding of district court here has something to do with the snow. During the December term the Judge was compelled to wade snow most of the time he was here, and now, no sooner does he get things moving in the court room, when another white blanket is spread. Mr. McFie has agreed that when the Valley needs a good snowstorm, if we let him know, he will gladly come down and hold a term of court for us, bringing the snow with him. We'll remember this and send for you, Judge.

### Census Enumerators

Santa Fe, N. M., Feb. 2.—On January 31, the time expired for the receipt of applications for the position of census enumerator, and while many applications have been received since then, these had to be rejected. On Saturday February 5, examinations or tests will be conducted at a hundred different postoffices in New Mexico and upon the outcome of these tests depends the appointment of the applicants. In Santa Fe, the test will be held at the capital from 9 a. m. to noon, three hours being given applicants in which to fill out the examination papers. In all there are about 600 applicants in New Mexico and as there are only 300 places to fill, every second applicant will be disappointed. However, in some sections, like Luna county, the number of applications is less than the places to be filled while in places like Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Chamita, Ricardo, etc., there are ten to twenty times as many applications as places. As a rule, applicants can be appointed only in the district in which they live. Enumerators who served ten years ago will be given the preference if they pass the examination properly.

Estancia is among the list of places where the examination or test will be held.

E. A. Vondevelt, of Willard, came up on Tuesday, having been summoned as a juror. He has just recovered from a severe illness and was excused, having brought a physician's certificate to the effect that he has not as yet completely regained his health.

## NO SHADOW

Wednesday of this week, February 2, is the day set aside by the territorial legislature on which to commemorate the signing of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, by the terms of which New Mexico was ceded to the United States. The day is called "New Mexico Day." In the book of programs recently published by the Department of Education for the use of the schools in preparing programs for holidays, appropriate suggestions are made for New Mexico Day. In some of the schools this has been done this year, while the idea will prevail to a larger extent in years to come.

## Regarding Assessments

In another column of this issue on the last page is published the itinerary of the county assessor, beginning March 4, and ending April 2. The law in regard to the assessor's duties is different in New Mexico than almost any of the states, and as a number of our people are not conversant with the same, we publish herewith several sections of the Compiled Laws of 1897, that they may be informed as to their duties in regard to making returns for assessment.

Section 4026—All taxable property shall be listed, assessed and taxed each year, in the name of the owner thereof, on the first day of March.

Section 4032—The assessor is required, between the first day in March and the first day in May, of each year, to ascertain the names of all taxable inhabitants, and all property in his county subject to taxation. To this end he shall visit each precinct in the county, and exact from each person a statement in writing, or list showing all property belonging to, claimed by, or in the possession or under the control or management of such person, or any firm of which such person is a member, or any corporation of which such person is president, secretary, cashier, or managing agent.

Section 4034—The assessor shall furnish such person with a blank for such list, which he may fill out at the time he presents it, or he may deliver it to such person, or leave it at his residence or place of business, and the list shall be made out, verified and delivered to the assessor on or before the last Monday in April.

### Halley's Comet

Halley's Comet, which has been plainly visible in the west for several evenings, has now become so dim that it is not visible to the naked eye on account of the nearness and brightness of the sun. It will not be visible again until after it passes around the sun, and starts again on its great journey into space. A great many people have been nervous every since this Comet has appeared, fearing that it might collide with the earth. Of course that is possible, as Astronomers tell us that the earth has passed through the tail of a Comet at two different times during the last century in 1819 and 1861. But in each case it was not known until after the encounter had occurred. Should the earth come in contact with the head of a comet, there would undoubtedly be a fine meteoric display. This is no doubt what happened in 1833 and also on a number of previous occasions. More anon.

## "SMOKY" MILLER ON TRIAL FOR MURDER AT DURAN

District Court in Midst of Busy Session. Several Cases Disposed of, others are Continued for the Term. Court Makes Good Headway toward Clearing Docket

## GRAND JURY CONTINUES ITS WORK

District Court met on Monday morning in adjourned session, with the Hon. John R. McFie, presiding. Clerk F. W. Shearon, Interpreter Read, Sheriff Meyer and Stenographer Mrs. McNitt were at their posts. Upon calling the grand and petit juries several members failed to respond. Other names were drawn from the box, the parties summoned and the venires completed.

The first cases called were two against Hilario O. Martinez, charged with accepting bribe as an officer. After the jury had been examined, the court decided that the alleged crime was a misdemeanor and not a felony, whereupon the jury was waived and the court proceeded with the trial. Doroteo Torres and Jesus Maria Padilla testified that they had seen the defendant accept two dollars from each of two men, after the two had been arrested for violation of the gambling law, and the two were there upon released by the defendant, who held a commission as deputy sheriff. A third witness for the prosecution could testify positively to nothing further than he had seen the defendant in company with the two men. Several witnesses for the defense testified that there had been no gambling at the time and place alleged no arrests were made by the defendant and consequently no money had been paid for the release of the parties under arrest. The stories as told by the two sides were diametrically opposed to each other. The case was submitted to the court without argument on the part of either the prosecuting attorney nor Mr. Larrazola, who represented the defense. After summing up the evidence, the court taking into consideration the character of the two witnesses, Torres and Padilla, both of whom are under indictment on two charges, discharged the defendant. In doing so, the court took occasion to express himself in regard to witnesses who take the witness chair and proceed to make testimony, apparently perjuring themselves from start to finish. It will be remembered that within the past few weeks, Doroteo Torres was arrested as one of the gang which entered and robbed the house of Epifanio Viljil near Progreso, and is at the present awaiting the action of the grand jury on this charge, having been committed to jail, in default of bail.

The cases against Doroteo Torres, numbers 124 and 125 on the court docket, charging violation of the Sunday and gaming laws, was next called. After taking testimony both for the territory and the defendant, the case was given to the jury early in the evening of Wednesday. About eight o'clock the jury reported to the court that it could not agree on a verdict. After further instructions the jury was sent back for further deliberations, and on Thursday morning reported a disagreement.

The case of the territory vs. Andres Paralta, charging assault with intent to kill, was called, the jury empaneled and the taking of testimony proceeded. District Attorney Abbott represented the territory, while Hon. E. A. Mann, represented the defense.

### Ranch House Burns

On Monday night the home of Harve Cluff, about five miles from Mountainair, near what is known as the Yeso settlement, was completely destroyed by fire. Mr. and Mrs. Cluff were in Estancia, where Harve had come to attend court as a grand juror.

The fire must have been of incendiary origin, as there is hardly a chance of any other theory for it. Mrs. Cluff had taken up the claim, which had apparently been abandoned, later filing a contest against the original entryman. The case came up for hearing in Santa Fe last week. It seems that considerable feeling was engendered during the taking of testimony, and the fire may have been the result.

The loss is considerable, the home having been nicely furnished, among other things there having been an eight hundred dollar piano. Mr. Cluff asked to be excused from the grand jury, to go home and take up any clew, which might be found to solve the mystery of the fire. It is to be hoped the fire-bugs will be apprehended.

One of the older men in the courtroom on Tuesday, hearing the court's instructions to the jury, was heard to remark that he had never heard a court instruct a jury in such a fraternal manner. The instructions were along the line of the "Golden Rule", which is too often omitted by both courts and juries. Too often the rule is reversed in to "Do others before they do you." With a fraternal spirit prevailing between the court, the members of the bar and the jurors, justice will prevail. So mote it be!

## W. O. W. Officers.

Estancia Camp, No. 51. Woodmen of the World recently held its annual election of officers with the following result:

James Walker, Consul Commander.

F. L. Burruss, Adjutant Lieutenant.

S. A. Goldsmith, Banker.

C. A. Burruss, Clerk.

B. L. Hues, Escort.

T. J. Moore, Watchman.

A. M. Adair, Sentry.

W. E. Sunderland, Physician.

T. E. Keen, C. I. Bedford and J. L. Stubblefield, Managers.

The Camp has a good membership and is growing nicely, with bright prospects for the future.

## Makes Curious Find

D. W. Robinson, of Tuttle & Sons of this city, brought us a copy of the Shawnee Daily Herald, containing a write-up of a curious "find" in which his brother James C. Robinson, played an active part, we quote a part of the article:

One of the most mysterious and perhaps important finds ever recorded in Shawnee was brought to light yesterday when James C. Robinson, who guards the cities' prisoners working on the streets unearthed a small tin treasure box beneath a tree on North Market street between Burns avenue and Dill street.

Discovery was made about 50 feet from an old spring which was used by the Kickapoo Indians and the box was buried about three feet below the ground. This point was formerly occupied by the Kickapoos as a camping ground in early days.

The box contained well preserved patents to property located in Harper County, Kas., the value of which at this time would closely approximate \$2,000,000. An unsigned receipt was attached to pension papers in favor of Martin Arthur, of Anthony, Kas., while a mortgage of ancient origin was also contained in the small tin box.

Officer Robinson immediately brought his find to police headquarters and the papers were placed in charge of Tax Collector L. E. Hathcock.

All of the land patents, which are those covering Osage trust lands and one covering 160 acres in the Cherokee Strip, are signed by Chester A. Arthur, president of the United States, O. L. Judd, as assistant secretary, and S. W. Clark, recorder of the general land office.

The certificates of patents are well preserved and could not have possibly been buried in their place of hiding earlier than 1891, inasmuch as one of the mortgages is dated in 1891.

Just how the papers ever came to be placed in their unique hiding place is a matter of mystery among those who have examined the same.

Whether or not the same is a part of loot secured by bank robbers in Kansas during the 90's is a matter of conjecture. That the same had been taken from some bank vault and left in Shawnee during the flight of robbers was advanced as a plausible reason for the hiding of the deeds in what was once a remote wilderness with regard to its present hustling activity.

J. B. McSpadden, engineer on the New Mexico Central, came down last Friday to stay a while on the farm. He is now a member of the News family.

## SCHOOLS WAKE FINE SHOWING

Enrollment 115, with one Room not Reported. Attendance Good

## PARENTS SHOULD GO-OPERATE

We are pleased to give herewith the monthly report for the month ending January 29, 1910, of the Estancia Public Schools. It shows that our schools rank with the very best to be found anywhere, a fact in which our people may well take pride.

### Primary Grades.

Enrollment, males 34, females 31, total 65. Average daily attendance, males 17.2, females 17.7, total 34.9. Number neither absent nor tardy, 3. Number of recitations daily, 15. Number visits by board, 1.

Edna Ford, Teacher.

### Intermediate Grades.

Enrollment, males 34, females 24, total 58. Average daily attendance, males 16.6, females 12.775, total 29.375. Number neither absent nor tardy, 8. Number recitations daily, 16. Number visits by board, 1.

Minnie Laws, Teacher.

### Grammar Grades.

Enrollment, males 12, females 25, total 37. Average daily attendance, males 9.225, females 22.05, total 31.27. Number neither absent nor tardy, 5. Number recitations daily, 14. Number visits by board, 1.

Zella Roberts, Teacher.

### High School Grades.

Enrollment, males 7, females 15, total 22. Average daily attendance, males 6, females 12.5, total 18.5. Number neither absent nor tardy, 3. Number recitations daily, 15. Number of visits by board, 1.

T. N. Russell, Teacher.

The above reports show a daily attendance of 115 pupils. This does not include Miss Bigbee's report, as it was handed to the board instead of to me. With few exceptions the attendance has been good. However, we have a few pupils in school who are invariably late or absent all day. There is no excuse for it. With the help of the parents all such seeming indifference can be removed.

Visitors are welcome at the school at any time of the day and any day during the week.

T. N. Russell, Principal.

### Ready to Begin Work

August Reingardt, the successful bidder on the Torrance County courthouse, came in from Santa Fe Wednesday evening, intending to stake out the grounds and begin the work yesterday morning. The snow here was a surprise to him, as there was none in Santa Fe, the day being bright and clear. With a foot of snow on the ground he could do nothing toward beginning the active work, but has been making preparations to start with a rush as soon as the snow melts sufficiently to do so.

He has a car of cement on the road, and has arrangements made for the shipment of the brick, upon a moment's notice. Those who know Mr. Reingardt as a contractor, know that there will be no needless delay, and not a minute's let-up after once the work is started. Torrance County is assured a splendid building and everyone of the twelve thousand dollars spent will bring full value.